



Woodstock Pond 2002 Fisheries Management Report

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

Woodstock Pond is a 7.5-acre impoundment located within York River State Park. Known in its early history as Taskinas Plantation, the park was the site of a 17th and 18th century tobacco warehouse where local planters stored their crops to be shipped to England. Woodstock pond was built in the 1950s and the park itself was opened in 1980. Because of its location and the quality of the fishing, this little fishery is ideal for a family outing.

Grass carp were stocked in 1989 in an effort to combat an extensive infestation of filamentous algae that was causing an imbalance between the largemouth bass and sunfish populations. The rate of algal infestation has declined since that time.

The pond was sampled in the spring of 2001 using electrofishing gear. This method of sampling the shoreline relies on using an electric current to stun the fish, which can then be picked up, assessed and released.

This is essentially a bass and bluegill fishery with few other species present in significant numbers. However, there are indications that the redear sunfish population is improving. During the 1998 survey the population appeared to be in decline. Juvenile fish were not recorded indicating that there may have been a recruitment problem. The good news is that the 2001 survey shows that the situation is changing for the better. Catch rates had improved and juvenile redear sunfish were recorded. The bluegill population was in fair condition; you'll find plenty in the 6 to 8" size range.

We've left the best for last. Our results show improved catch rates and good population structure for bass. In 1998 we did not find any fish over 17" in length, but the 2001 survey showed that 18 to 22" bass were present and they were in good condition. The heaviest fish recorded was 7.2 lbs.

Anglers can fish from the bank or from rented rowing boats. There is a 15-inch minimum size limit for harvesting bass. The park caters for a wide variety of activities. There are bike trails, horse trails, hiking trails, picnic shelters, primitive campgrounds, playgrounds, an interpretive center and gift shop. Organized group activities are also offered.

From I-64 take Route 607 toward Croaker, and then take Route 606 east to the park. For further information call the park office at 757 566 3036.

